

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3769

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE (COEC)  
MEETINGS JULY 4 AND 5

REF: A. USNATO 2340

B. STATE 90808

C. USNATO 3231

D. STATE 133549

1. IN MEETINGS JULY 4 AND 5, COEC CONCLUDED PARA BY PARA REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON EXERCISE HILEX-6 (AC/237-WP/90). US REP (TUCKER) CIRCULATED STATEMENT DRAWN FROM REFS A THROUGH D, EMPHASIZING THAT A MAJOR LESSON OF THE EXERCISE--AS WELL AS THE RECENT MIDDLE EAST WAR--WAS USE OF WARNING TIME. TO THIS END, EARLY REVISION OF THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM WAS NEEDED.

2. OUR PUSH FOR REVISION OF THE ALERT SYSTEM WAS VIRTUALLY UNSUPPORTED. THE ITALIAN REP (COL CAPONE) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE IT WOULD BE "COUNTERPRODUCTIVE" TO REDUCE SHARPLY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NUMBER OF MEASURES REQUIRING FORMAL DPC APPROVAL (PARA 44(B) OF THE DRAFT REPORT). THE UK REP (BEAUMONT) AGREED. BOTH COUNTRIES WERE FEARFUL OF LOSING NATIONAL POLITICAL CONTROL. TEXT OF UK STATEMENT BELOW.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS CHARACTERIZED THE PRESENT ALERT SYSTEM AS ADEQUATE. THE SACEUR REP (COL MORSE) CALLED FOR EDUCATIONAL EFFORT SO THAT ALL WOULD HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT EACH MEASURE ENTAILED. US REP AGREED BUT FELT THAT WAS NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.

4. DISCUSSION OF PARA 47 ON NATIONAL CATEGORIZATION OF ALERT MEASURES REVEALED THAT THERE IS INDEED A DIFFERENCE IN INTERPRETATION OF CATEGORY I ("NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AGREE TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES OF THIS CATEGORY WHEN DECLARED"). THE BRITISH REGARD THE SECOND DEFINITION IN PARA 47 AS THE CORRECT WORDING. MISSION BELIEVES THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE CLARIFIED, IF POSSIBLE, IN THE DPC.

5. CANADIAN COMMENTS ON REPORT ARE IN AC/237-WP/92. INTERNATIONAL STAFF WILL CIRCULATE REVISED DRAFT NEXT WEEK FOR DISCUSSION IN COEC MEETING LATER IN MONTH. MISSION WILL SEND COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON ON REVISED DRAFT. WE PROPOSE TO WORK TO RETAIN DESIRED LANGUAGE ON ALERT SYSTEM IN THE REPORT.

6. TEXT OF UK COMMENTS ON ALERT SYSTEM FOLLOW BEGIN TEXT:

THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM-PARA 44

7. WE WOULD SUPPORT SUGGESTIONS A AND C, BUT ARE NOT SURE THAT B HAS BEEN CLEARLY THOUGHT THROUGH. IF IMPORTANT POLICY DECISIONS ARE REQUIRED THE DPC MUST BE INVOLVED, UNLESS THERE IS A UNANIMITY OF VIEW AS WOULD BE DEMONSTRATED BY THE METHOD SUGGESTED IN C, IN WHICH CASE THE DPC COULD BE BY-PASSED. IF THE THOUGHT BEHIND SUGGESTION B IS THAT A MUCH GREATER NUMBER OF DECISIONS SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE MNCS, THIS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

COMPLEXITY OF THE SYSTEM-PARAS 45, 46

8. IT IS QUOTE TRUE THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS COMPLEX. IT  
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IS BASED ON POLITICAL CONTROL. IF ADEQUATE POLITICAL ADVICE IS AVAILABLE PROMPTLY TO DELEGATIONS IT WILL WORK. BEARING IN MIND THAT NO DEGRADATION OF POLITICAL CONTROL IS LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE, IT IS CLEAR THAT ACTIONS PRESENTLY UNDERTAKEN UNDER PARTICULAR MEASURES WILL STILL NEED POLITICAL DECISION IN A CRISIS EVEN IF MEASURES ARE AMALGAMATED OR DELETED, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT ONE AMALGAMATED MEASURE COMPRISING SEVERAL OTHERS WILL GET SPEEDIER ASSENT THAN THE MEASURES REQUESTED INDIVIDUALLY. IN OUR VIEW, THEREFOR, THE MOST FRUITFUL AREA OF IMPROVEMENT IS IN THE HANDLING OF THE SYSTEM-IN SPEED OF BRIEFING BY CAPITALS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PROCESSING AT NATO.

9. IF, NONETHELESS, A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE ALERT

SYSTEM IS THOUGHT NECESSARY, WE SUGGEST THAT IT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN ONE STEP, RATHER THAN BY PIECEMEAL TINKERING WITH MEASURES. SINCE THIS IS NOT A TASK TO BE APPROACHED HURRIEDLY, WE STRONGLY FAVOUR A BROAD EXAMINATION NOW INTO WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SPEED UP THE WORKING OF THE SYSTEM.

PRACTICAL POINTS ON THE ALERT SYSTEM-PARA 47

10. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF CATEGORY I TO THAT OF THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE REWORDING IN SUB-PARA (1). THIS WOULD ONLY MEAN HIGHER CATEGORATION. WE REGARD THE SECOND ONE AS THE CORRECT WORDING; THE CATEGORISATION AT I MEANS THAT THE UK IS LIKELY IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES TO IMPLEMENT. END TEXT  
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